

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	221362
Inspection date	06 September 2007
Inspector	Jan Burnet
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Childminding

ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 1992. She lives in a village location between Northampton and Daventry with her husband and adult son. The ground floor of the home is used for play activities, there is a ground floor toilet and a bathroom on the first floor. The front garden is used for outdoor play. Family pets are fish and three ducks.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years at any one time. She currently cares for nine children aged under eight years, eight of them on a part-time basis. Of these, five are school aged children. The childminder also cares for three children aged over eight years. She walks to the local school to take and collect children and attends local parent and toddler groups.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's good health is assured because the childminder's cleaning routines are very thorough and because the children are aware of good practice with regard to hand washing. Their best

interests are served in case of accident because the childminder has kept an up-to-date first aid certificate for many years. The risk of cross-infection is minimised because parents are aware that their child should not attend if he or she has a contagious illness or sickness and diarrhoea and that they will be contacted if the child becomes ill. The protection of children's health is generally good because the childminder is aware of their medical and dietary needs, however, potentially their well-being is compromised because parents of children currently minded have not been asked for written emergency treatment consent.

Children's dietary needs are known by the childminder, even though parents provide meals. The childminder provides fruit for snacks. Risk to children from unsafe food is very low because food is stored in a fridge operating at the correct temperature. Children's emotional well-being is addressed well by the childminder. She creates a very welcoming environment and children are happy and settled. The childminder encourages parents to spend some time settling their child in to avoid any separation anxiety. Children are developing skills and confidence with a good range of physical play activities at home and at the park.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play, eat and sleep in safe and healthy premises. Risks to children are minimal and they learn how to keep themselves safe, for example, holding hands when out walking, looking and listening when crossing the road and use of pedestrian crossings. Children are safe from unwanted visitors and could not leave the premises unsupervised because the childminder is alert to her responsibilities with regard to supervision at all times. She has identified and addressed potential hazards inside the home and in the garden. However, bedrooms are not included in the registered space and even though the childminder identifies that she would not want children to enter to them, they have not been made inaccessible to children who use the bathroom independently.

The main playroom is at the back of the house and toy storage boxes encourage children's independence as they are able to choose and select their own resources. A sitting room at the front of the house is used for quiet activities or for sleeping children. Toys, activities and equipment are safe, clean and in a good condition. Children are aware of the evacuation procedure as it is practised once per month. The childminder recently contacted the local fire safety service and the children were delighted when a fire engine and six fire fighters visited. They interacted with the children and checked the childminder's home, only recommending that televisions are not left on 'stand-by'.

Children's welfare is appropriately safeguarded because the childminder has a working knowledge of the signs of abuse and neglect. She is aware of her responsibilities with regard to local referral procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, settled and confident. They are cared for as individuals with different needs and the childminder ensures that a good variety of activities and experiences are available for all children. Routines are good, consistent and include activities inside and outside the home. Children are learning and developing as a result of stimulating and challenging experiences. They are developing social skills at the parent and toddler group and experience messy, creative and physical play activities at home. Children choose their own toys from boxes in the playroom

and confidently request toys that are stored in a utility area out of their reach. Whilst playing, children develop manipulative skills that lead to good pencil control, they learn colours and shapes, count, and extend language as the childminder asks open-ended questions. They enjoy daily visits to the park, where they have access to a good range of challenging equipment.

Children are well cared for and the childminder ensures that resources and activities meet the needs of the children at their different stages of development. She continually offers support and encouragement and children are sociable and keen to be involved.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individual needs are known and met satisfactorily by the childminder. Admission forms are thorough and consistency of care between home and childminder is assured with a daily share of information. Parents always visit before care of their child begins and the childminder learns as much as possible about the child. Parents are expected to gradually settle their child in. The childminder demonstrates a commitment to assessing and improving her service as she provides a written complaints procedure for parents.

The childminder has not yet cared for a child with a special need but would find out as much as possible from the parent so that she was able to satisfactorily meet the child's needs. Children are learning to appreciate and value each others' similarities and differences, for example, when they talk about their families and differences of skin colour amongst the group. They are able to choose books and toys that reflect diversity.

Children and parents are aware of rules regarding behaviour and learn to share and take turns. They benefit from the childminder's consistent methods of behaviour management, which include praise in recognition of good behaviour, talking to children and explaining why behaviour was inappropriate, moving older children away from each other or the situation and distraction. Children are expected to be kind to each other.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are settled and made welcome in the childminder's home. Thorough admission information and verbal communication with parents ensures that children's needs are known and appropriately met. Children's developmental needs are addressed well with consistent routines, the choice of toys and a balanced range of activities.

Most documentation and all required records are kept up to date and are generally well-organised. Children benefit from the childminder's commitment to improving her knowledge and skills as during 2007 she has already attended training on child protection, first aid, the 'Birth to three matters' framework' and courses on play. An up-date on food hygiene is planned. Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the time of the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure that the medication record is signed by parents. Children's best interests are served because this has been satisfactorily addressed.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- make sure that written emergency treatment consent is obtained from all parents
- make bedrooms that are not registered inaccessible to children.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education* (HMI ref no 2599) which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk